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white Australia. One is also left with the suspicion that all along he was not the easiest man to work with.

But these are not just the memoirs of a highly opinionated and cranky old bureaucrat. Above all, his countrymen would do well to take seriously his considered criticism of the American "civilization" they emulate so ardently. There are no punches pulled here. For example: "American public life is... riddled with corruption, from top to bottom"; "you saw such evil feces [in the New York subway] that you felt that here is the very scum, the very garbage can, of humanity"; "American firms have pillaged the world"; "The takeover of English publishers, and infiltration of American publishing industrialists and values into English publishing in our present days, is a sinister development—money changers in the temple, an establishment of whose-mongers". One may titillate at the range of comment and its recklessness, but how many British ambassadors, present or superan-

It is therefore with sympathy that one turns to Irene Clemons' translation of André Malraux's account of the famous conversation which he had with General de Gaulle in December 1969. But the more one compares the French text with the translation, the more one realizes that she has allowed so much to remain. Thus "nous à table" is "we moved to 'Le Général de Gaulle d'un geste un des faueteils becomes "With a gesture, de Gaulle turned round, and together with Napoleon described as "un très grand" "uno assezt prete amo" "a very greet spirit and a small soul". Words like *rigorously* rendered, others too. All in all this reads clumsily as a translation, even if there are no actual mistakes.

17th April £4.50


The papal programme

Effendi, as his successor, but we are never told anything about his wife or wives or of the son or, as seems more likely, daughter who produced Shoghi Effendi. In fact we are told nothing about his family.

very end of the book when he is about to die and is suddenly surrounded by his "Holy Family" which includes at least two daughters and four sons-in-law. Most prominent among the daughters was one whom he had conferred the title of the "Greatest Holy Leaf". One assumes that she was the mother of Shoghi Effendi, but we are not told. This lack of precision in matters affecting the apostolic succession is both unnecessary and irritating.

Bahá'í doctrine is purposefully imprecise since it would reduce all religions to a lowest common denominator. The essential teachings of oneness, equality, tolerance, and peace will be found in quotations from the *Wáris* throughout the book. The general reader will probably be puzzled by the quasi-biblical style of this work which, in any case, seems to be for experts only. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was no doubt a charismatic leader, but the charisma does not come through.

Then there is the question of his family life. We know that he appointed his grandson, Shoghl



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POETS AND

Paul Celan Nineteen

the Protest

Reformers, and a portrait of
rini in his earlier days as a
strong convictions" who "shrink from speaking his

The tragedy of the story
Latin Catholicism, in its pr

time dress ("richness and
ness" are Dr Matheson's
could not readily under-
come to terms with the spli-

Reformers, essentially German-
highly' hitlloentric, while
interests—including the pro
German local sovereignty and

sign, as well as the position of the papacy in Europe—concern matters. Any hope of a reunion of the central theological

uncontaminated by such "concerns, was absurd, much to be desired. On these theological interests, u

Contarini, for instance, ap-
have been able to grasp wh
stake in talk of "justifi-

although he found it difficult to explain what the sacramental view of the Eucharist meant to Protestants, with their opposition to transubstantiation and the

rice" of the Mass., were
Nor could he recognize
Lutheran opposites were
ing: their "obstinacy."

In the colloquy it became
that for one who was sure

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4- "the" brought about:

Too skilful by half?

GORDON McARTHUR (Editor):
Pallent Doctor Society
151pp. Oxford University Press, for
the Nuffield Provincial Hospital
Trust. £2.50.

The possibilities of scientific advance seem to be inexhaustible and already they impinge on many facets of human life which once seemed inviolable.

A century ago the challenge to medicine was to save life. . . . Where death could not be prevented the patient's comfort was the prime object.

Few will disagree with Sir George Pickering's words. Now, it may be said that the same objectives dominate the medical world—but do they? It could be asked whether surgical technique and skill sometimes outstrip common sense, and whether the surgeon is not more of a skilled technician than a doctor.

In this symposium reference is made to a condition known as "spina bifida", a lethal campitoid found in about 2.0 per 1,000 births.

On being a help

ROBERT BESSILL:
Interviewing and Counselling
264pp. Harcourt. £2.50.

Although even the greatest theoretical understanding of the dynamics of counselling is no substitute for a wish to help people, the best natural helper can always increase his aptitude by understanding what he is doing more fully.

The philosophy underlying social work is based on the recognition of the inalienable rights of the individual. This involves acceptance of the

Skilled surgery can restore a proportion of these children to a normal life: some are left physically incapacitated but are mentally normal, while a number, quite a large number, remain both mentally and physically disabled. Is it too much for society to ask that the surgeon's hand be restrained except when there is a good chance, or a near certainty, that the child will grow up at least normal and healthy in mind? The strain on the parents who have to care for a paralysed, or spastic, imbecile is great: the effect on other normal members of the family is harmful; and the cost of institutional care is high. What has gained?

The same criticism applies to the resuscitation of those whose brain is irretrievably injured. "When did my husband really die?" asked a widow whose husband had suffered a brain injury that had transformed him into a vegetable. He had survived several attacks of pneumonia, with the help of antibiotics, but there was no improvement in his mental condition. His attendants decided not to treat a further attack,

and he died peacefully. Then followed the widow's question. It should not be difficult to answer. The successful treatment of genetic disorders may perpetuate them because the successfully treated patients may produce similarly disordered children. Old people now live longer, and this poses great problems of maintenance and care. Ferguson Anderson refers to the near-immortality of elderly women, and it is almost a surprise to read Sir Martin Rath's statement that 95.5 per cent of elderly people subsist somehow in their own or their relatives' homes.

The articles in this volume should be read by all who are interested in the future pattern of disease and the organization of medical care. It is held by some that scientists must continue to work and to experiment without moral or ethical curbs. Is it right that medicine should be able, now as in the past, to pursue its research with no thought for the effects on the future of mankind? Do we really want to see "an ageing population sufficed with other people's viscera nod with their own senile brains"?

client, however unappealing, the goal of self-determination, even if it results in the rejection of the social worker, and confidentiality, which entails the possibility that the worker may have to make difficult decisions about when he must betray a confidence through pressure from the wider society. Robert Bessill attempts to show how these principles can be translated into practice.

He discusses the merits of various interviewing techniques and counselling methods and shows how, for example, the success of the interview may be affected by visiting the client's home rather than asking him to come to the social worker's office, or how the quality of the reception staff and even the physical layout of the waiting-room may affect the client's perception of the agency's willingness to help. He is clearly aware of some of the dilemmas which inevitably face a social worker. He may have to use information obtained in an interview, to recommend a decision with which he knows his client will not agree—for

example, a Bernal sentence or the taking of a child into care. He must at the same time accept the client and yet reject some of his beliefs.

Therefore, Mr Bessill argues, he must be very sure of his own moral attitudes. He admits that social work has been criticized in the past as existing mainly "to prevent the poor upsetting the stability of a society which was organized for the benefit of its richer members", and that too often a social worker has looked for signs of maladjustment, neglecting the fact that a family has had to manage on an entirely inadequate income. But by concentrating on the techniques of interviewing and counselling, and the social worker's attitude towards himself in relation to the client, a somewhat utopian view of the profession emerges. It is almost as if, given enough enthusiasm and skill, problems due to social conditions such as poverty, inequality, and overcrowded slum housing will be smoothed away or happily accepted after a friendly chat with the social worker.

Socialist medicine

D. STARK MURRAY:
Why a National Health Service?
136pp. Pemberton Books. £1.25 (paperback, 70p).

It is always useful to have somebody to blow one's trumpet, and Stark Murray, in his detailed account of the rise of the Socialist Medical Association (of which he is a founder member) since its beginning in 1930, gives a long and steady blast in its honour. But when Dr Murray says that:

after the beginning of the twentieth century it was of course the rising tide of the political Labour movement that of the trade union that forced Lloyd George to introduce the National Health Insurance in 1911. Such a concept had no place in his basic political thinking at that date but the trade union demand for better social conditions included the need for some form of medical care, at least for those in work, which at that time meant mainly men, except in a few industries. This was finally accepted, but only for those of low income.

One wonders whether this is really the way serious history should be written.

Undoubtedly the views of the Socialist Medical Association influenced the Labour Government when the National Health Service Bill was being drafted, but to say that this piece of legislation is entirely socialist is surely an exaggeration. There has always been a challenge to the "medical establishment" to consider the needs of the poor. Records supplied if the were

able to practise without the need to work hard merely to survive: this is regarded by some, for the most part not by doctors, as degrading. If, however, this idea were accepted it would imply the need for a salaried service for all doctors, and this has been violently opposed by many practitioners in the past.

Now, it is a less unattractive proposition to many of its former opponents and to the young. Dr Murray sees the failure of the Government to establish a full-time salaried service for doctors as the greatest misjudgment of 1946. "The fear of bureaucratic supervision is a constant theme in the growing forms of management, could be well founded."

The thesis of this short book is a dislike of private practice in any form; private beds in hospitals come under the same severe disapproval. There comes a time when it is difficult to know which is more undesirable—a real laissez faire or a real doctrinaire approach to what are, after all, human problems. The Socialist Medical Association, as seen in this book, therefore, makes and reads for those who think that party politics should, so far as possible, be kept out of medicine.

Dr Murray has given us a book which is certainly not without interest, especially for the social history of the twentieth century. It would have carried a greater weight if the author had not so overstated his case.

Off the record

J. D. BERNAL:
The Extension of Man
A History of Physics before 1900
317pp. Including 111 illustrations.
Weidenfeld and Nicolson. £2.95.

If future historians of science remember the late J. D. Bernal, it will be as a physicist who turned his hand to the expression of a Marxist historiography of science. If historians have been generous in the past to such works of his as *The Social Function of Science* and *Science in History*, it is because these books, for all their distortions and shabby documentary support, were put together with single-mindedness, and with an end clearly in view. There was, of course, contempt in plenty on the part of some professional historians, who were often oblivious to the fact that their own pages were full of error for want of connecting ideas of any kind whatever. Take away from Bernal, however, the ideological grime which bound his pages together, and what is left? His last book, a history of physics before 1900, is a sorry example of what happened when Professor Bernal himself chose to do more or less precisely this.

The book is taken from tape-recordings of a course of lectures given at Birkbeck College, London, to first-year students in physics. (How long before type can be set directly from a microphone?) It is well illustrated, and written in a simple language that readers are far more likely to be offended at the repetition of the obvious than deterred by any obscurity of style.

The avowed aim was to explain "what experimental physics is and how it has come to be like that." Neither ambition is often in evidence, much less is either achieved. Aimlessness is there from the outset.

There is a half-hearted attempt to start with pre-history, in the sense of a pre-digested children's encyclopedia. From there, a little sketch through the centuries to the modern era, with a few references to more specific references to the past. (If not to years after the fact, it has all been done before, at the same level, and more expertly.)

Heaven forbid that anyone should use the book as a text, or as a source of information. It is not a text, for there are no signposts to be followed, and the uninitiated make, for instance, of the isolated statement "within fifty years of the regime in Central Asia the Tartary set up not only the kind of society that had been there, but made the best of it."

Well might the story of the world be told, about the folly of the notes at university lectures. Professor Bernal's students, disregarding the warning that well advised, incidentally, to the hero of the story, "the Mohammedan philosopher," and the tenth and into the twentieth century, and at the same time could move "Alhazen" from Egypt. One could work through the book in this way, these are typical enough examples of the "enthralling detail" of the dust-jacket. Humour and freshness are also promised, from that of a few of the ideas, there is freshness only in the kind usually associated with prepared student essays; and is no humour in criticizing a "what experimental physics is and how it has come to be like that." Neither ambition is often in evidence, much less is either achieved. Aimlessness is there from the outset.

Conditions in other countries do, nevertheless, have a long-term influence on collective bargaining in

Send for the elite

MACFARLANE BURNETT:
Dominant Mammal
The Biology of Human Destiny
205pp. Heinemann. £2.75.

Dominant Mammal is a collection of themes which have been popular since 1945—when the first atomic bomb exploded—mixed with ideas derived largely from the work of biologists and anthropologists. Mun, the message runs, is an aggressive animal programmed by natural selection with the urge to dominate nature and his fellow. His technological magnificence, bestial stupidity, and appalling fecundity will end in a poisoned earth and the extinction of most or all living beings.

Sir Macfarlane Burnett's programme for avoiding disaster and ensuring health, happiness and education for all is very simple, and indistinguishable from anyone else's programme. We must stabilize population size, avoid pollution of the biosphere, husband natural resources, and let each other up. How can we stabilize population size? Let married couples have fewer children. How shall we avoid pollution? Why, curb industry. And war? Let there be a world organization with its own armed forces, supported by the wealth of the sea. All right-thinking men must work for these goals: "Effective persuasion must be by and toward the elite."

The elite includes the author, Robert Oppenheimer, Einstein, Joseph Roibal, and the dynamite millionaire Alfred Nobel, among others. They are, or were, not only the elite, but also the "meek" who must inherit the earth. Against these "power-addicts," the mad politicians and industrialists who control the breeding of stupid masses who are breeding themselves into poverty, disease and dirt. If only the educated elite can prevail, as in the past they prevailed over gladiatorial combat,

judicial torture, the slave trade, child labour, then all will be well and a "stable human ecology" will be attained.

It is depressing that so many biologists as Professor Burnett should have no more than platitudes to offer in discussing such fascinating biological problems as: the future of the species. This species finds itself without its consent, burdened with consciousness, cast into a cruel violent world. In its struggle to survive it has experimented with many social forms, all of them cruel, violent, superstitious, totally odious to all save a small number of the steepest, cancerous, and even they suffered hellish tortures. The steepest, cancerous, and even they suffered hellish tortures. The steepest, cancerous, and even they suffered hellish tortures.

For nearly two hundred years, Western European men, followed by the Americans and then by the rest of the world, have been trying to live with scientific and technological progress, without benefit of education, without benefit of education, without benefit of education.

We who are alive today will know the outcome. We can know, thanks to modern biology, that if a species deserves to survive, it will survive; if it does not, it will become extinct. The next few years may be critical for our species. It is not only pollution and population growth which will be critical, but there is a worse danger, and it is by books like *Dominant Mammal* that it is spread. The danger is that, through major innovations without the temperance and moderation of modern science and technology, neither ecological nor population control, nor the high races indicated by the last century to century and a half, will be developed.

Workers here and workers there

GUNTER (Editor):
International Industrial Relations
Macmillan. £7.

There has been a rapid growth of interest in recent years in the effect of industrial relations of the growth, in size and influence, of multinational corporations. In 1969 the International Institute for Labour Studies in Geneva held a symposium on the subject and the proceedings have now been published as *Transnational Industrial Relations*. It is a book of the text that discussion covers a wide field and also covers the implications for industrial relations of the formation of regional economic markets.

Though much has been said and written about multinational corporations, their impact on industrial relations has not been as dramatic as has sometimes been suggested. The main fact is that, when submitting claims for higher wages and better conditions, workers through their unions look primarily to the wages and conditions of their own country. Arguing about comparability, within a national context, are still the most frequently used of all in collective bargaining. This was underlined in the recent mining dispute in Britain. It was not the pay and conditions of miners in other countries that influenced the miners, nor were they strongly influenced by the fact that the majority of them had spent the past ten or fifteen years, they were influenced above all else by their deterioration in relation to other British workers.

Conditions in other countries do, nevertheless, have a long-term influence on collective bargaining in

Britain. When, for example, claims were being pressed for the forty-hour week it was customary for unions to point to agreements for a forty-hour week which had already been negotiated in other countries. Similarly, unions frequently point to the existence of longer holidays in many other countries. It would be unrealistic to deny that this weight of evidence has an effect on the attitude of employers.

Government legislation on labour conditions has also been influenced by legislation elsewhere. The new Industrial Relations Act, to quote an obvious example, was clearly influenced by American legislation, particularly the Taft Hartley Act. British legislation on redundancy pay was also influenced by arrangements in other European countries. Thus the growing interest in industrial relations and labour conditions in other industrialized countries, will continue to influence British developments. The growth of multinational companies strengthens this tendency.

Britain already has considerable experience in dealing with international companies. There are hundreds of foreign companies which have established factories or offices in Britain in the postwar period. In other cases British firms have been taken over by foreign firms. In still others more direct control has been exerted by foreign owners. Some of the best-known firms in British industry—such as Ford, Esso, Unilever, Philips, Kodak, Chrysler and Vauxhall—are either in the ultimate control of a foreign owner or have strong international connections. Most foreign firms have adopted their industrial relations policies rather successfully to British conditions. In general, they tend to pay rather higher wages and salaries

than British firms, though there are exceptions. They also, in general, display a greater reluctance to join employers' federations. They prefer to conduct their own collective bargaining.

Some American firms in Britain have passed through a stormy period in their dealings with British workers and unions before eventually establishing a basis of co-existence. But having once recognized unions, American firms can enter into collective bargaining with gusto. There have been one or two examples of American firms which have not been able to adapt themselves in an extremely difficult situation and eventually were involved in a dispute which, by British standards, was unusually bitter and violent. Other American firms have avoided trade union organization by a combination of high wages and paternalism. These, however, are the exceptions.

For British readers one of the most interesting papers is by Ben Roberts. He classifies the economic activities of multinational corporations into a number of main groups: extractive, plantation, processing, manufacturing, transporting and communicating, trading and marketing of financial, and other types of services. He points out that the type of economic activity carried out by the corporation has an important influence on its organizational structure, its pattern of management, and the character of its industrial relations. Oil companies, for example, are capital intensive and have highly integrated systems of production, processing and marketing. It is, therefore, essential for them to establish a pattern of industrial relations which will safeguard them

from industrial unrest. Thus oil companies tend to pay high wages and to provide good conditions of employment. Labour costs represent a relatively low proportion of total costs and all companies are in a favourable position to offer good conditions of employment. An interesting contrast is provided by some of the mining companies. Their activities are often labour intensive, and their prices and profits tend to fluctuate quite sharply from one period to another. These factors, as Professor Roberts points out, have tended to make mining companies harder bargainers. These are just a

few of the interesting points to emerge from Professor Roberts's paper.

Transnational Industrial Relations deals also with the effect on industrial relations of regional economic integration. Five papers deal specifically with developments in the European Economic Community. One of these papers discusses the trend towards harmonization of conditions. It is still arguable whether there has been any significant move towards levelling up of conditions, in spite of the acceptance of certain formal arrangements which point in that direction.

Colectivism

DAVID DOUGLASS:
Pit Life in Co. Durham: Rank and File Movements and Workers' Control
92pp. Oxford: Ruskin College History Workshop. Paperback, 60p.

It doesn't often happen that historical works run right up against the present, not even the highly present-conscious History Workshop pamphlets which come from Ruskin College, Oxford. But that is what has happened to this truly striking History Workshop pamphlet by David Douglass, which not only appeared during the biggest miners' stoppage since 1926 but was dictated from the picket line of Dicot Power Station and dedicated to the author's friend, Freddie Matthews, killed picketing on February 3.

Mr Douglass is an active militant, editor of the rank-and-file paper, *The Mineworker*, but his pamphlet is not more agitprop. It is in fact a fine

account of the traditional struggle of the Durham miners to control their jobs on a local basis, largely drawn from such primary sources as branch minute-books, personal testimony, and first-hand observation. Anyone who wants to know what really lay behind the determination and solidarity of the miners' strike could well ignore the hundreds of columns inches by industrial correspondents and instead read this inside story of the old but far from dead systems of "miners' leagues of miners" and "cavilling" collective distribution of work, the custom of bargaining over work in the mine itself, the resistance of branches to the union as well as to the management, and so on.

The pamphlet certainly amounts to a powerful vindication of the philosophy behind the History Workshops, and it might be worth looking forward with apprehension as well as anticipation to the next one—arranged for the weekend of May 5-7—on the subject of children's liberation.

Innovators and entrepreneurs

E. E. MUSSON (Editor):
Science, Technology, and Economic Growth in the Eighteenth Century
H. K. Methuen. £2.25 (paperback, 10p).

Dr Musson has been a chief protagonist of the distinction which is still commonly made (and is implicit in the Kuznets quotation) between the "empirical" or craftsman-based advances of the eighteenth century and the subsequent science-based technology of the more recent period. In Dr Musson's view sufficient connexion can be made between contemporary scientific thought and inquiry and the entrepreneurs of the Industrial Revolution to justify the application of "science-based" to even the eighteenth-century developments in technology. The question of how to interpret these advances—some evidently the final flowering of a

water-powered technology with origins back in the Middle Ages, and others (like the steam engine, and the application of chemistry to industry) examples of a completely new departure towards modern scientific techniques—has long been argued by historians of the period. T. S. Ashton lent his authority to the side of science:

The stream of English scientific thought issuing from the teaching of Francis Bacon and enlarged by the genius of Boyle and Newton, was one of the main tributaries of the industrial revolution. . . . There was much coming and going between the laboratory and the workshop, and men like James Watt, Joseph Wedgwood, William Roynolds and James Keir were at home in the one as in the other.

To some extent the argument between empiricism and science turns on semantics, on such questions as what precisely is meant by "innovation" and "scientific". As Professor Mathias points out in his contribution, much of the so-called science of the eighteenth century was bogus, misconceived, and irrational. Scientific attitudes, as exemplified by experimental method and measurement, were much more diffused than was accurate scientific knowledge. The society of the period was one "increasingly curious, increasingly questioning, increasingly on the move, on the make, having a go, increasingly seeking to experiment, wanting to improve". Science may have learnt as much from technology as technology from science. Scientific advance buttressed empirical techniques, but the real basis of progress was neither science nor technology, but that leading characteristic of this age, intellectual enlargement.

Dr Musson elaborates on this coming and going, and he considers too the influence of education and the widespread adoption of scientific method and measurement. The supposed "inevitability" of invention comes in for examination, and he notes that many inventions did not arise automatically "when conditions were ripe" but often lagged behind for long periods after their first appearance.

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